

U.S. Department of Justice

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News Release

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Gordon S. Heddell, Inspector General, United States Department of Labor, announce the indictment of Samuel G. Kooritzky on charges of conspiracy, labor certification fraud, making false statements, immigration fraud, and money laundering. Mr. McNulty further announces the guilty plea of Ronald W. Bogardus, an associate of Kooritzky's, on charges of conspiracy, labor certification fraud, immigration fraud, money laundering, and extortion.

Samuel G. Kooritzky, 63, of Vienna, Virginia, is an attorney and the owner of the Capital Law Centers in Arlington, Virginia; Langley Park, Maryland; and Washington, D.C. Ronald W. Bogardus, 65, of Arlington, Virginia, was, until recently, an engineer with the United States Department of State.

On September 26, 2002, a grand jury indicted Kooritzky on one count of conspiracy, 15 counts of labor certification fraud, 20 counts of making false statements, one count of immigration fraud, and one count of money laundering. In the indictment, the grand jury alleges that Kooritzky repeatedly prepared fraudulent applications for alien employment certification and then filed the applications with the United States Department of Labor on behalf of Northern Virginia businesses and local immigrants. These applications sought to convince the Department of Labor that the businesses wanted to hire immigrants because they could not find U.S. workers to fill job openings. If approved, the applications would allow the immigrant involved to apply for a green card to live and work in the United States. According to the indictment, however, none of the businesses listed on the applications authorized the applications. Rather, the applications contained a false job offer and the forged signature of a manager of the business in question. Kooritzky presented the applications as legitimate to the immigrants who signed them and charged each immigrant between \$8,000 and \$30,000 per application.

On August 20, 2002, Bogardus pled guilty to one count each of conspiracy, labor certification fraud, and money laundering. These convictions stemmed from his efforts to assist Kooritzky with the preparation of fraudulent applications for alien employment certification that Kooritzky later presented to the United States Department of Labor. On the same date, Bogardus also pled guilty to one count of immigration fraud and one count of extortion. The immigration fraud concerned a fraudulent immigration application Bogardus submitted to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in which Bogardus presented the INS with a false Arlington County divorce decree

designed to conceal his true marital status. The extortion concerned written threats Bogardus directed to a local immigrant in an attempt to persuade the immigrant to withdraw a lawsuit filed in Arlington County Circuit Court against Kooritzky and others. Bogardus will be sentenced on October 18, 2002, at which time he faces a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment.

According to Mr. McNulty, "We have learned from the attacks of September 11th that identity and immigration fraud are part of the terrorists' play book. This case illustrates the commitment of this office to protect the integrity of America's identification, document and immigration procedures."

These cases are the result of a joint investigation by the United States Department of Labor, the United States Department of State, the Internal Revenue Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Fairfax County Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney John T. Morton is prosecuting the cases for the government.